

## SECTION C

This document covers thermostabilized scrambled eggs packaged in a polymeric tray for use by the Department of Defense as a component of operational rations.

### C-1 ITEM DESCRIPTION

PCR-E-005, EGGS, SCRAMBLED, PACKAGED IN A POLYMERIC TRAY, SHELF STABLE

### C-2 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

A. Product standard. A sample shall be subjected to first article or product demonstration model inspection as applicable, in accordance with the tests and inspections of Section E of this Performance-based Contract Requirements document.

B. Commercial sterility. The packaged food shall be processed until commercially sterile. Thermally processed product shall be free of swelling or microbial activity when tested in accordance with section E-5, B, (1) of this Performance-based Contract Requirements document.

C. Shelf life. The packaged product shall meet the minimum shelf life requirement of 36 months at 80°F.


D. Appearance.

(1) General. The product shall be plain scrambled eggs. The packaged food shall be free from foreign materials.

(2) Eggs. The color of the finished product shall be only slightly darker than a typical yellow cooked egg color. The finished product shall be practically free of starch lumps, air pockets or void areas.

E. Odor and flavor. The packaged food shall have an odor and flavor characteristic of scrambled eggs. The packaged food shall be free from foreign odors and flavors.

F. Texture. The egg product shall be moist, slightly spongy, and shall not be rubbery.

 Net Weight. The average net weight shall be not less than 90 ounces. No individual polymeric tray shall have a net weight of less than 88 ounces.

H. Free liquid weight. Free liquid weight in an individual tray shall be not more than 3.0 ounces.

I. Palatability and overall appearance. The finished product shall be equal to or better than the approved product standard in palatability and overall appearance.

J. Analytical requirements.

(1) Protein content. The protein content shall be not less than 8.0 percent.

(2) Fat content. The fat content shall be not greater than 17.0 percent.

(3) Salt content. The salt content shall be not less than 0.5 percent and not greater than 1.0 percent.

### C-3 MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION ONLY TO PROVIDE THE BENEFIT OF PAST GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE. THIS IS NOT A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT.

A. Ingredients/formulation. Ingredients and formulation percentages for the may be as follows:

<u>Ingredients</u>	<u>Percent by weight</u>
Liquid or frozen whole eggs	71.000
Water	17.646
Vegetable oil	5.500
Liquid margarine	3.000
Modified waxy maize pre-gelatinized instant starch	2.000
Salt <u>1/</u>	0.650
Ground white pepper	0.150
Citric acid	0.050
Dry or liquid annatto color (15% norbixen)	0.004

1/ The total amount of salt in formula may be adjusted as necessary to produce a product that complies with the finished product salt requirement.

### SECTION D

#### D-1 PACKAGING

A. Preservation. Product shall be filled into polymeric trays and the trays with protective sleeves, shall conform to the requirements of section 3 of MIL-PRF-32004, Packaging of Food in Polymeric Trays. Verification testing and inspection of trays, lids and sleeves shall be in accordance with Section 4 of MIL-PRF-32004 and the Quality Assurance Provisions of Section E of this Performance-based Contract Requirements document.

B. Polymeric tray closure. The filled, sealed, and processed tray shall be securely closed.

#### D-2 LABELING

A. Polymeric tray body. One side of each polymeric tray shall be clearly printed or stamped, in a manner that does not damage the tray, with permanent ink of any contrasting color, which is free of carcinogenic elements. To avoid erroneous marking of trays, the product name, lot number and filling equipment number shall be applied prior to processing. All other tray marking may be applied before or after processing. If these markings are applied along the tray body side (see figure 1 of MIL-PRF-32004), or if applied along the tray body end, are not readily legible in low light conditions, a small, easily legible label detailing product name and number of portions shall be applied along one tray body end, but not over any existing tray markings. 1/

Tray body markings shall include:

- (1) Product name. Commonly used abbreviations may be used when authorized by the inspection agency.
- (2) Tray code includes: 2/
  - Lot Number
  - Filling equipment identification number
  - Retort identification number
  - Retort cook number

1/ As an alternate method, tray body markings may be clearly printed or stamped onto the polymeric tray lid prior to processing, in a manner that does not damage the lid, with permanent ink of any contrasting color, which is free of carcinogenic elements, provided that the required markings are applied onto the tray body after processing.

2/ The lot number shall be expressed as a four digit Julian code. The first digit shall indicate the year of production and the next three digits shall indicate the day of the year (Example, 11 January 2001 would be coded as 1011). The Julian code shall represent the day the product was packaged into the tray and processed. Sublotting (when used) shall be represented by an alpha character immediately following the four digit Julian code. Following the four digit Julian code and the alpha character (when used), the other required code information shall be printed in the sequence as listed above.

B. Polymeric tray lid. The lid shall be clearly printed or stamped, in a manner that does not cause damage. Permanent ink of any contrasting color, which is free of carcinogenic elements, shall be used. As an alternate labeling method, a pre-printed self-adhering 0.002 inch thick clear polyester label printed with indelible contrasting color ink may be used.

(1) Lid labeling shall include:

Product name

Ingredients

Net weight

Name and address of packer

Official establishment number (for example, EST 38) or a three letter code identifying the establishment

(2) Lid labeling shall also show the following statements:

TO HEAT IN WATER: Submerge unopened tray in water. Bring water to a boil. Simmer gently 35-40 minutes. Avoid overheating (tray shows evidence of bulging).

WARNING: Do not heat tray in oven.

TO TRANSPORT AFTER HEATING: Insert tray back into protective sleeve to protect during transport. If sleeve is unavailable, stack trays lid-to-lid with fiberboard pads in between.

CAUTION: Use care when opening as pressure may have been generated within the tray.

TO OPEN: Using a clean knife, cut the lidding around the inside perimeter of the tray seals.

SUGGESTION: Cut lid along 3 sides and fold over uncut portion. Fold back to keep unused portions protected.

YIELD: Serves 18 portions of approximately 2/3 cup each.

### D-3 PACKING

A. Packing for shipment to ration assembler. Four filled, sealed, processed and sleeved polymeric trays shall be packed in a snug fitting fiberboard box conforming to style RSC-L, type CF, grade 275 of ASTM D 5118, Standard Practice for Fabrication of Fiberboard Shipping Boxes. The sleeved trays shall be placed flat with the first two trays placed with the lids together and the next two trays with the lids together. The box shall be closed in accordance with ASTM D 1974, Standard Practice for Methods of Closing, Sealing, and Reinforcing Fiberboard Shipping Containers.

#### **D-4 UNITIZATION**

A. Unit loads. Unit loads shall be as specified in DSCP FORM 3507, Loads, Unit: Preparation of Semiperishable Subsistence Items.

#### **D-5 MARKING**

A. Shipping containers and unit loads. Marking of shipping containers and unit loads shall be as specified in DPSC FORM 3556 Marking Instructions for Shipping Cases, Sacks and Palletized/Containerized Loads of Perishable and Semiperishable Subsistence.

#### **SECTION E INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE**

The following quality assurance criteria, utilizing ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-1993, Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes, are required. When required, the manufacturer shall provide the certificate(s) of conformance to the appropriate inspection activity. Certificate(s) of conformance not provided shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

##### **A. Definitions.**

(1) Critical defect. A critical defect is a defect that judgment and experience indicate would result in hazardous or unsafe conditions for individuals using, maintaining, or depending on the item; or a defect that judgment and experience indicate is likely to prevent the performance of the major end item, i.e., the consumption of the ration.

(2) Major defect. A major defect is a defect, other than critical, that is likely to result in failure, or to reduce materially the usability of the unit of product for its intended purpose.

(3) Minor defect. A minor defect is a defect that is not likely to reduce materially the usability of the unit of product for its intended purpose, or is a departure from established standards having little bearing on the effective use or operation of the unit.

B. Classification of inspections. The inspection requirements specified herein are classified as follows:

(1) Product standard inspection. The first article or product demonstration model shall be inspected in accordance with the provisions of this document and evaluated for overall appearance and palatability. Any failure to conform to the performance requirements or any appearance or palatability failure, shall be cause for rejection of the lot. The approved first article or product demonstration model shall be used as the product standard for periodic review evaluations. All food components that are inspected by the USDA shall be subject to periodic review sampling and evaluation. The USDA shall select sample units during production of contracts and submit them to the following address for evaluation:

US Army Soldier & Biological Chemical Command  
Soldiers System Ctr., Natick Soldier Center  
Attn: AMSSB-RCF-F(N)  
15 Kansas Street  
Natick, MA 01760-5018

One lot shall be randomly selected during each calendar month of production. Two (2) sample units of each item produced shall be randomly selected from that one production lot. The two (2) sample units shall be shipped to Natick within two (2) working days upon


completion of all USDA inspection requirements. The sample units will be evaluated for the characteristics of appearance, odor, flavor, texture and overall quality. Failure of samples to conform to all such characteristics may be cause for rejection.

(2) Conformance inspection. Conformance inspection shall include the examinations and the methods of inspection cited in this section.

#### **E-5 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS (PRODUCT)**

A. Product examination. The finished product shall be examined for compliance with the performance requirements specified in Section C of this Performance-based Contract Requirements document utilizing the double sampling plans indicated in ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 - 1993. The lot size shall be expressed in trays. The sample unit shall be the contents of one tray. The inspection level shall be S-3 and the acceptable quality level (AQL), expressed in terms of defects per hundred units, shall be 4.0 for major defects and 6.5 for minor defects. Defects and defect classifications are listed in Table I below. The trays shall be heated in accordance with the heating instructions from the tray label prior to conducting any portion of the product examination. The samples for free liquid weight inspection shall be selected using the same sampling criteria as above.


TABLE I. Product defects 1/ 2/

Category		Defect
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	
		<u>Appearance</u>
101		Product is more than slightly darker than typical yellow, cooked egg color.
	201	Product shows visible lumps of starch.
	202	Presence of two or more air pockets or void areas measuring 1/2 inch or more in each of two separate dimensions.
	203	Presence of three or more air pockets or void areas measuring 1/4 inch or more in each of two separate dimensions.
		<u>Odor and flavor</u>
102		Odor or flavor not characteristic of scrambled eggs.
		<u>Texture</u>
103		Egg product not moist or not slightly spongy.
104		Egg product is rubbery.
		<u>Net weight</u>
		 Net weight of an individual polymeric tray is less than 88 ounces. <u>3/</u>
		<u>Free liquid weight</u>
	205	Free liquid weight in an individual polymeric tray more than 3.0 ounces. <u>4/</u>

1/ The presence of any foreign material such as but not limited to, dirt, insect parts, hair, wood, glass, metal, or mold or the presence of any foreign odors or flavors such

as, but not limited to burnt, scorched, rancid, sour, or stale shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

2/ Finished product not equal to or better than the approved product standard in palatability and overall appearance shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

3/  ple average net weight less than 90 ounces shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

4/ To test for free liquid weight the polymeric tray shall be opened and the lid shall be held in place. The polymeric tray shall be elevated on end, so that any liquid will flow out of the opened corner, and drained for 1 minute, collecting the free liquid. The free liquid shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 ounce.

#### B. Methods of inspection.

(1) Commercial sterility. Incubate at  $95^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$  for 10 days, unless otherwise specified by the inspection agency.

(2) Shelf life. The contractor shall provide a certificate of conformance that the product has a 3 year shelf life when stored at  $80^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Government verification may include storage for 6 months at  $100^{\circ}\text{F}$  or 36 months at  $80^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Upon completion of either storage period, the product will be subjected to a sensory evaluation panel for appearance and palatability and must receive an overall score of 5 or higher based on a 9 point hedonic scale to be considered acceptable.

(3) Net weight. The net weight of the filled and sealed polymeric tray shall be determined by weighing each sample unit on a suitable scale tared with a representative empty tray and lid. Results shall be reported to the nearest 1 ounce.

(4) Starch lumps, air pockets, and void areas. From each sample polymeric tray of product, remove one 3 inch wide center slice (sliced lengthwise of the tray). Place center slice on edge and cut in half lengthwise. Inspect right inside surface for air pockets and void areas and starch lumps.

(5) Analytical. The sample to be analyzed shall be a composite of three filled and sealed polymeric trays which have been selected at random from the lot. The composited sample shall be prepared (see NOTE) and analyzed in accordance with the following methods of the Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC International:

<u>Test</u>	<u>Method Number</u>
Protein	984.13, 992.15
Fat	925.32
Salt	935.47

Test results shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 percent. Any nonconforming results shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

NOTE: The USDA will use AOAC method 983.18 for preparation of the sample.

### E-6 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS (PACKAGING AND PACKING MATERIALS, POLYMERIC TRAY)

#### A. Packaging and labeling.

(1) Polymeric tray testing. For purposes of clarification, the polymeric tray without the lid will be referred to as the "tray" and the polymeric tray with the lid shall be referred to as the "container". The polymeric tray with protective sleeve and polymeric tray material shall be examined for the characteristics listed in table I of MIL-PRF-32004, Packaging of Food in Polymeric Trays. The lot size, sample unit, and

inspection level criteria are provided in table II below for each of the test characteristics. Any test failure shall be classified as a major defect and shall be cause for rejection of the lot. For rough handling survivability at frozen temperature, polymeric tray survival rate shall be at least 85 percent.

TABLE II. Polymeric tray quality assurance criteria

<u>Prior to processing</u>			
Characteristic	Lot size expressed in	Sample unit	Inspection level
Tray configurations and dimensions	Trays	1 tray	S-1
Oxygen gas transmission rate of tray	Trays	1 tray	S-1
Oxygen gas transmission rate of lid	Yards	1/2 yard	S-1
Water vapor transmission rate of tray	Trays	1 tray	S-1
Water vapor transmission rate of lid	Yards	1/2 yard	S-1
Camouflage	Containers	1 container	S-1
<u>After processing</u>			
Characteristic	Lot size expressed in	Sample unit	Inspection level
Processing	Trays	1 tray	S-2
Rough handling survivability	Test containers	1 container	S-2
Protective sleeve	Containers	1 container	S-1
Residual gas	Containers	1 container	S-1
Closure seal	Containers	1 container	S-1
Internal pressure	Containers	1 container	S-1
Lid opening	Containers	1 container	S-1

(2) Examination of container. The container with protective sleeve removed shall be examined for the defects listed in table II of MIL-PRF-32004 and the labeling defects listed in table III below. The lot size shall be expressed in containers. The sample unit shall be one processed and labeled container. The inspection level shall be I and the AQL, expressed in terms of defects per hundred units, shall be 0.65 for major A defects, 2.5 for major B defects and 4.0 for minor defects. Two hundred sample units shall be examined for critical defects. The finding of any critical defect shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

TABLE III. Container labeling defects

Category	Defect
<u>Major A</u>	<u>Minor</u>
101	Polymeric tray lid or body labeling missing, incorrect or illegible.
	201 When a pre-printed self adhering label is used, the label not adhering to tray lid (for example, label raised or peeled back from edge to corner) or presence of any areas of gaps along the perimeter of the label where the label is not properly adhered.

B. Packing.

(1) Shipping container and marking examination. The filled and sealed shipping containers shall be examined for the defects listed in table IV below. The lot size shall be expressed in shipping containers. The sample unit shall be one shipping container fully packed. The inspection level shall be S-3 and the AQL, expressed in terms of defects per hundred units, shall be 4.0 for major defects and 10.0 for total defects.

TABLE IV. Shipping container and marking defects

Category		Defect
<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	
101		Marking omitted, incorrect, illegible, or improper size, location sequence or method of application.
102		Inadequate workmanship. <u>1/</u>
	201	Arrangement or number of polymeric trays not as specified.

1/ Inadequate workmanship is defined as, but not limited to, incomplete closure of container flaps, loose strapping, inadequate stapling, improper taping, or bulged or distorted container.

C. Unitization.

(1) Unit load examination. The unit load shall be examined in accordance with the requirements of DSCP Form 3507, Loads, Unit: Preparation of Semiperishable Subsistence Items. Any nonconformance shall be classified as a major defect and shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

**SECTION J REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

DSCP FORMS

DSCP FORM 3507 Loads, Unit: Preparation of Semiperishable Subsistence Items  
 DPSC FORM 3556 Marking Instructions for Shipping Cases, Sacks and Palletized/Containerized Loads of Perishable and Semiperishable Subsistence

MILITARY SPECIFICATIONS

MIL-PRF-32004 Packaging of Food in Polymeric Trays

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and regulations promulgated thereunder (21 CFR Parts 1-199) and (9 CFR Parts 1-391)

NON-GOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR QUALITY (ASQ)

ANSI/ASQCZ1.4-1993 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS (ASTM)

- D 1974 Standard Practice for Methods of Closing, Sealing, and Reinforcing  
Fiberboard Shipping Containers
- D 5118 Standard Practice for Fabrication of Fiberboard Shipping Boxes

AOAC INTERNATIONAL Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC International

AMSSB-RCF-F (N) (Richards/5037)  
14 April 2003

TO: DSCP-HRUT (Charya/3832)

SUBJECT: (ES03-100), Document changes, PCR-E-005, Eggs, Scrambled, Polymeric Tray.

The Natick Soldier Center (NSC) submits the following changes to the subject document for use in all current, pending and future procurements until the documents are formally amended or revised:

C-2, G. Net Weight. The average net weight shall be not less than 90 ounces. No individual polymeric tray shall have a net weight of less than 88 ounces. Table I, Minor 204, Net weight of an individual polymeric tray is less than 88 ounces. 3/ Table I, 3/ Sample average net weight less than 90 ounces shall be cause for rejection of the lot.

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(ARichards)

CF: NSC:  
Friel  
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Trottier  
Valvano

CF: DSCP & SVCs:  
Beward  
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